



❖ 1895. ❖

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

FOR THE

BOROUGH OF STRATFORD-UPON-AVON.

ANNUAL REPORT

OF

THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

FOR THE

BOROUGH OF STRATFORD-UPON-AVON.

MR. CHAIRMAN AND GENTLEMEN,

I HAVE the honour to submit my Annual Report on the Health of the Borough for the year 1895.

VITAL STATISTICS.

POPULATION. In making my estimates I assume that the population of the Borough has increased since the census, taken in 1891, in the same proportion as it increased between 1881 and 1891. This, if correct, makes the population for the middle of the year 1895 to be 8,433 inhabitants, and is a very moderate increase, less, indeed, than the excess of births over deaths yields.

BIRTH-RATE. The birth-rate for the year is 24·7 per 1,000 inhabitants, the number of births registered being 209 (male 100, female 109). How this birth-rate compares with previous years is shown in the following statement of the number of births annually since 1886 :—

Year.	1886	1887	1888	1889	1890	1891	1892	1893	1894	1895
No. of Births	245	220	219	214	187	232	195	236	182	209

DEATH-RATE. The number of deaths in the year is 186 (male 98, female 88). As will be seen by reference to Table A, 24 of these were of persons not belonging to the town, leaving 162. The corrected death-rate is, therefore, 19·3 per 1,000 inhabitants, which unsatisfactory rate is due to the extraordinary number of deaths which occurred during and subsequent to the severe weather in the first three months of the year. In these months 75 deaths were registered, of which about one-half were in persons over 60 years of age. The death-rate in 1895 from diseases of the respiratory organs (phthisis excepted) was nearly double that of the preceding year.

INFANTILE MORTALITY. The infantile death-rate is 114 per 1,000 registered births. There were 25 deaths of children under one year of age (15 male, 10 female), and of these one was of an infant belonging outside the Borough.

ZYMOTIC DEATH-RATE. There were 19 deaths from zymotic disease in the year, of which four were those of patients from the rural districts brought into the Borough for treatment. The 15 remaining cases were:—Diphtheria 5, whooping cough 9, diarrhœa 1. The corrected zymotic death-rate is 1·7, which is decidedly above the average.

(A) TABLE OF DEATHS during the Year 1895, in the STRATFORD-UPON-AVON URBAN DISTRICT, classified according to DISEASES, AGES, and LOCALITIES.

NAMES OF LOCALITIES adopted for the purpose of these Statistics ; Public Institutions being shown as separate localities.	MORTALITY FROM ALL CAUSES AT SUBJOINED AGES.							MORTALITY FROM SUBJOINED CAUSES, DISTINGUISHING DEATHS OF CHILDREN UNDER FIVE YEARS OF AGE.																	TOTAL.														
	At all ages	Under 1 year.						Smallpox	Scarlatina	Diphtheria	Membranous-Croup	FEVERS.								Typhus	Enteric or Typhoid	Continued	Relapsing	Puerperal		Cholera	Erysipelas	Measles	Whooping Cough	Diarrhoea and Dysentery	Rheumatic Fever	Phthisis	Bronchitis, Pneumonia, & Pleurisy	Heart Disease	Influenza	Injuries	All other Diseases		
		Under 1 year.	1 and under 5.	5 and under 15.	15 and under 25.	25 and under 65.	65 and upwards.																																
The Borough	141	24	20	2	5	45	45	Under 5	1																										16	43			
								5 upwds																												3	98		
The Workhouse	29	1					10	Under 5																												1	1		
								5 upwds																												14	28		
The Hospital	11	2	1	2	4	2		Under 5	2																												2		
								5 upwds																														1	9
The Joint Hospital	5	1	2	2				Under 5	1	2																												3	
								5 upwds																														2	
Totals	186	25	25	5	7	59	65	Under 5	1	5																											17	49	
								5 upwds																														4	137
Deaths in the District of persons not belonging thereto	24	1	2	1	2	6	12	Under 5	1	1																											1	3	
								5 upwds																														13	21

(B) TABLE OF POPULATION, BIRTHS, and of NEW CASES OF INFECTIOUS SICKNESS, coming to the knowledge of the Medical Officer of Health during the year 1895, in the STRATFORD-UPON-AVON URBAN DISTRICT; classified according to DISEASES, AGES, and LOCALITIES.

NAMES OF LOCALITIES adopted for the purpose of these statistics; Public Insti- tutions being shown as sepa- rate localities.	POPULATION AT ALL AGES.		Regis- tered Births.	Aged under 5 or over 5	NEW CASES OF SICKNESS IN EACH LOCALITY, COMING TO THE KNOW- LEDGE OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH.												NUMBER OF SUCH CASES REMOVED FROM THEIR HOMES IN THE SEVERAL LOCALITIES FOR TREAT- MENT IN ISOLATION HOSPITAL.																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																								
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The Borough	(b)	(c)	(d)	(e)	Under 5	1	6</

TABLES A AND B.

SMALLPOX. One case of this was notified in September, and was immediately removed to Bellevue Hospital. The patient, a young woman, had good marks from vaccination in infancy, and had the smallpox in its modified form, being convalescent in less than a month. It was impossible to trace any authenticated source of her infection.

SCARLET FEVER. There has been less scarlet fever in the Borough in 1895 than in any year since the adoption of the Notification Act. Six cases were reported in the year, of which one was in January, one in March, one in August, and three in December. The source of the case in January was by infection from a case reported in December, 1894. The case in March occurred in a house at Lower Clopton where previous cases had occurred in December, 1894. I was unable to trace any source of infection as regards the case in August. The three cases in December apparently originated through a domestic servant in a house in Bridge-street carrying infection to her employer's child. She then returned to her home in Shakespeare-street, and subsequently another case occurred in a family whose washing was done at her home. At the same time the servant herself sickened with the disease. All cases which have occurred in the year have been removed to the Joint Hospital as soon as possible.

DIPHTHERIA. Thirteen cases of diphtheria were notified in the year, and six deaths occurred. Of these cases one, which proved fatal, was a patient belonging outside the Borough, and sent in for operation.

MONTH.	NO. OF CASES.	NO. OF FAMILIES.	RESIDENCE.
January	3	2	Meer-street
May	1	1	Clopton-lane
June	5	5	Shottery, Mansell-street, Ryland-street, West-st., Windsor-street
July	1	1	Chapel-street
August	1	1	Mickleton
November	2	1	Alcester-road

The three cases in January were traceable to a case of "sore throat" in a young woman. In none of the other cases was any

previous case to be traced. In one instance a sewer ventilating shaft was objectionably near the bedroom windows of the house occupied. This was re-arranged. The five cases in June had no connection as regards milk supply or school attendance, and the dwellings occupied are not in the same neighbourhood, but widely separated through the town. In Meer-street and the Alcester-road the water supply was found impure. Further reference to diphtheria will be found under the heading of schools, and in my Report on the Joint Hospital.

ENTERIC FEVER. There were four cases of enteric (or typhoid) fever notified in the year, three of which came from Meer-street, the fourth being a patient sent in to the Union Workhouse from Henley-in Arden. The well water in Meer-street supplying the houses from which the cases came was found impure, and the well closed. One case only was nursed at home.

ERYSIPELAS. Seven cases of erysipelas were notified, in none of which was there anything of note. The disease seems worthy of being retained as notifiable on account of the frequency with which its presence is associated with premises requiring whitewashing and cleansing.

WHOOPIING COUGH. Nine deaths (males 4, females 5) have been registered as due to whooping cough and its sequelæ, the disease being the most fatal zymotic of the year. The only prospect of improving matters as regards the fatality of whooping cough lies in the better education of the working classes as regards the infectiousness of the disease, and in the better care of children suffering from it.

INFLUENZA. From this zymotic, which has added to the death-rate every year of late; 9 deaths (male 6, female 3) have been registered.

CANCER. Five deaths (male 2, female 3) have occurred in the year from cancer in one form or another.

DISINFECTION.

The routine plan adopted for the disinfection of premises where an infectious case has occurred is the removal of bedding and similar unwashable articles for steam disinfection, and the fumigation of the premises by means of sulphur fumes. Where it seems indicated, repapering and whitewashing are ordered as well. The weak point in

the plan is that there is no certainty that those articles which have been subjected to infection, and have not been removed, are properly washed and cleansed at home. The most satisfactory arrangement which suggests itself to me is that personal supervision of this washing and cleansing should be carried out either by a member of the nursing staff of the Joint Hospital, or by a district nurse. Such work as this could best be done under a woman's supervision, and it rarely happens that any of the Hospital nursing staff would have leisure to undertake it. As it is very doubtful if sulphur fumes and the use of chemical disinfectants in dilute form act as germicides, the matter is one of great importance.

SCHOOLS.

In no instance during the year have I found it necessary to close any public school in the Borough.

At the National School, Alcester-road I suggested to the Managers during the hot weather a more frequent flushing of the out-door offices there, and the placing of a large Tobin's tube in the small class-room. My suggestions were carried out, and I think with resultant benefit.

I inspected Shottery School owing to the prevalence of impetiginous eczema among the scholars, and as the exclusion of all affected would have been impracticable, I advised that those suffering should be separated as much as possible from other scholars.

There is no existing provision made whereby a Medical Officer of Health is informed as to the prevalence of any complaint in a school other than in the case of those diseases which are included in the Notification Act.

For instance, "sore throat" may be prevalent, but until the complaint culminates possibly in a genuine case of diphtheria, the Medical Officer of Health may be in total ignorance of what is going on. It would be reasonable, I think, that it should be the duty of the Attendance Officer to notify the Medical Officer of Health when he finds a number of children detained from school by measles, sore throat, &c.

SPECIAL REPORTS OF THE M. O. H. TO THE SANITARY AND HIGHWAYS COMMITTEE.

The only occasion in 1895 on which I made a Special Report was in reference to an alleged nuisance caused throughout the town generally in the hot weather at the end of the summer by pig-keeping in the Borough.

My report was to the effect that such nuisance did exist, and was owing to the exceptionally hot weather. That it was not to be done away with by greater care on the part of pigowners, as some of the most objectionable cases were those where all care was taken.

Acting upon this your Committee issued a notice warning pigowners that where a nuisance was caused by pigs the owner would be dealt with according to sections 94, 95, and 96 of the Public Health Act, 1875.

No further complaint was made after the issue of the notice, the hot weather having come to an end.

CANAL BOATS.

No infectious sickness has been reported on canal boats. The Inspector's Report appended gives details as regards the inspection of the boats.

DAIRIES AND COWSHEDS.

I have only to repeat my comments on these made in my Report for 1894, which were to the effect that the housing of the cattle was not calculated to be injurious to their well-being, but that the accommodation generally provided for milk storage was, generally speaking, unsatisfactory.

WATER SUPPLY OF THE BOROUGH.

I am informed by your Surveyor that at the present time there are 825 of the houses in the town supplied with water for drinking purposes from the Waterworks, and when the proposed increase in the storage

capacity of the works is accomplished, it might be advisable to extend the water service by using more compulsion than has been done in the past.

For since the public water supply of the town is satisfactory as to purity, there is no reason for the existence of these wells, which can never be guaranteed as safe, owing to the fact that the ground water which they contain is always receiving more or less soakage throughout the town.

It is very usual for the owner of a shallow well to imagine that his particular well is supplied by a special spring he has tapped, whereas the fact is that the shallow wells common throughout Stratford draw their water from a common source, *i.e.*, the ground water in the subsoil.

Since the duty was conferred on me of making periodical examinations of the water from the Waterworks, I have not found on any occasion any depreciation of its quality.

HOUSING OF THE WORKING CLASSES ACT, 1890.

A great deal of work has been done in the past in the improvement of the poorest class of houses in the Borough, but much remains to be done with reference to some of the courts in the town. It would be a vast improvement to some of the worst of these if they could have wide public entrances from the adjoining streets, instead of the means of access being a narrow passage. If this were done, the admission of light and air to the court and the extra publicity given to the homes of the inmates would, I am sure, do much good.

Some of the worst houses in these courts are in a chronic state of overcrowding, since they are too small for more than two or three persons. A visit from your Inspector leads to such overcrowded families having to remove, but only to be found later on occupying another house of similar accommodation.

The only way in which permanent good could be done in dealing with these cases would be some system of registering houses as capable of housing so many individuals, and of preventing landlords from letting houses to unsuitable tenants. It is needless for me to say that such a system is well-nigh impracticable; it would certainly lead to a number of families being unable to find a house to live in within the Borough.

PUBLIC HEALTH ACT, 1875; SECTION 116.
UN SOUND MEAT, &c.

My services have not been required during the year with reference to any unsound food offered for sale, since no seizures have been made.

I think the time is within measurable distance when the public will be unwilling to have their meat supplied to them as is done at present, and will require some official guarantee of the wholesomeness of the same, such as could be furnished by all slaughtering being done in a public abbatoir.

The establishment of a public abbatoir in the town should, with proper management, be an advantage to the trade, especially if, during such a summer as that of 1895, proper cool-storage for meat were available at the abbatoir. The benefit to the public generally would be in the supervision of slaughtering operations, and in the greater degree of cleanliness afforded. To those living in the proximity of private slaughter-houses the driving of cattle in the streets, the removal of offal, and the noise made by fasting beasts would be done away with.

To sum up, I do not think there is any public sanitary measure more deserving of attention from the Sanitary Committee than this matter.

VACCINATION.

The latest returns of the Vaccination Officer for the Borough show a very satisfactory condition of affairs as regards infantile vaccination in the town.

It is interesting to learn that in a town in the West of England where strong anti-vaccination ideas prevail, that recently, in an outbreak of smallpox, universal vaccination was recommended by the authorities of the town.

FACTORY AND WORKSHOPS ACT.

Since it is provided in the Act that work shall not be carried on in a workshop on premises where a case of scarlet fever or smallpox is housed, it is a great advantage to tailors and others that we are provided with hospital accommodation for such diseases.

I am, Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

ARTHUR THOMSON, M.B. D.P.H.,

Fellow British Inst. Pub. Health.

SANITARY INSPECTOR'S ANNUAL REPORT
FOR THE YEAR 1895.

*TO THE CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS OF THE
SANITARY AND HIGHWAYS COMMITTEE.*

GENTLEMEN,

I BEG to submit a Report of the work carried out in my department during the year 1895.

COMMON LODGING HOUSES.

There is now only one Common Lodging House on the Register. Owing to the death of the late keeper the house changed hands on March 12th, and the new keeper was duly registered, since which the business has largely increased, as the following returns will show.

Number of Lodgers which can be accommodated nightly, 25.

Number accommodated during the year, 6,277, as against 4,829 in 1894.

COWSHEDS AND DAIRIES.

Number of Cowsheds registered, 18.

Number of Dairies registered, 17.

The Cowsheds are not all that can be desired, as many of them are very rude structures, very few good buildings existing, and in some it is quite impossible to enforce the order as to limewashing.

The storage of milk is also far from satisfactory, as pantries, out-houses, or cellars are generally used for this purpose. In some there is no provision for storage.

CANAL BOATS.

As Inspector under the Canal Boats Act of 1877 and 1884, I have boarded and inspected 9 Canal Boats during the past year, all of which I found in a satisfactory state, except one.

There have been no infringements of the Acts or Regulations in respect to registration; notification of change of master; marking; overcrowding; separation of sexes; cleanliness and ventilation; painting; provision of water cask; removal of bilge water; notification of infectious disease; and admittance of Inspector.

No legal proceedings have been taken. In one case I found a boat carrying a wrong certificate. I cautioned the captain.

No case of infectious disease was met with. No boat was detained for disinfection.

There are 22 boats on the Register, but only three of these now ply on this water. No boat has been registered or re-registered during the past year.

SCAVENGING OF MIDDEN PRIVIES.

The scavenging of middens within the Borough is a most difficult matter, as, although situated as we are in the centre of an agricultural district, it is quite impossible to get the contents of middens removed without payment, and even then much difficulty is experienced in getting the work done, and the tenants in many cases are too poor to pay the price demanded of them, therefore serious nuisances arise from

the foul condition of these conveniences. It will be seen from my report that the number of middens is gradually being reduced, and water-closets substituted.

I am, Gentlemen,

Yours obediently,

JOHN BROOK, ASSOC. SAN. INST.,

Certificated Sanitary Inspector.

At the request of the Medical Officer of Health I herewith append a Report showing the working of the Vaccination Acts in this Borough, which will show that, although no defaulters have been proceeded against, the results are fairly satisfactory.

VACCINATION.

THE BOROUGH OF STRATFORD-UPON-AVON.

Return, shewing the number of Births Registered, together with the number of such cases successfully Vaccinated or otherwise disposed of in the above Borough during the year ending June 30th, 1895.

No. of Births Registered during the year ending 31st December, 1895.	Number of these cases successfully Vaccinated.	Insusceptible of Vaccination.	Died before Vaccination.	Cases under Postponement.	Removals to other Districts out of the Union.	No. of cases not to be found.	Number of cases remaining Unvaccinated at date of this Return.
197	150	—	21	1	6	—	19

JOHN BROOK, Vaccination Officer.

Summary of Sanitary Work done in the Inspector of Nuisance's
Department during the year ending 31st December, 1895.

					Inspections and Observations made.	Formal Notices by Authority.	Nuisances Abated after Notice.
Dwelling Houses and Schools.	{	Foul Conditions	16	7	16
		Structural Defects	14	6	14
		Overcrowding	5	5	5
		Unfit for Habitation	—	—	—
	Lodging Houses...	...	...	11	—	—
	Dairies and Milkshops ..	...	...	34	—	—
	Cow Sheds ...	...	...	36	—	—
	Bakehouses ...	[See M. O. H. Report		—	—	—	
	Slaughter-houses	...	...	Regu larly	—	—
	Canal Boats ..	...	...	9	—	—
House Drainage	{	Ashpits and Privies	28	21	25
		Deposits of Refuse and Manure	14	14	14
		Water Closets	26	18	23
		Defective Traps	16	11	16
	No Disconnection	...	...	7	6	7
	Other Faults	...	...	19	17	19
	Water Supply	...	...	5	5	5
	Pigsties...	...	...	2	2	2
	Animals improperly kept	...	...	3	3	3
	Offensive Trades...	...	...	—	—	—
	Smoke Nuisances	...	...	—	—	—
	Other Nuisances...	...	...	13	8	13
TOTALS ...				258	123	162	

Samples of Water taken for Analysis	...	11
" " condemned as unfit for use...		7
NOTE.—Where an inspection or notice embraces more than one defect, it may be enumerated separately as regards each such defect.		

PRECAUTIONS AGAINST INFECTIOUS DISEASE.			
Lots of Infected Bedding Stoved or Destroyed		22	
Houses Disinfected after Infectious Disease	...	21	
Schools	" " " "	—	

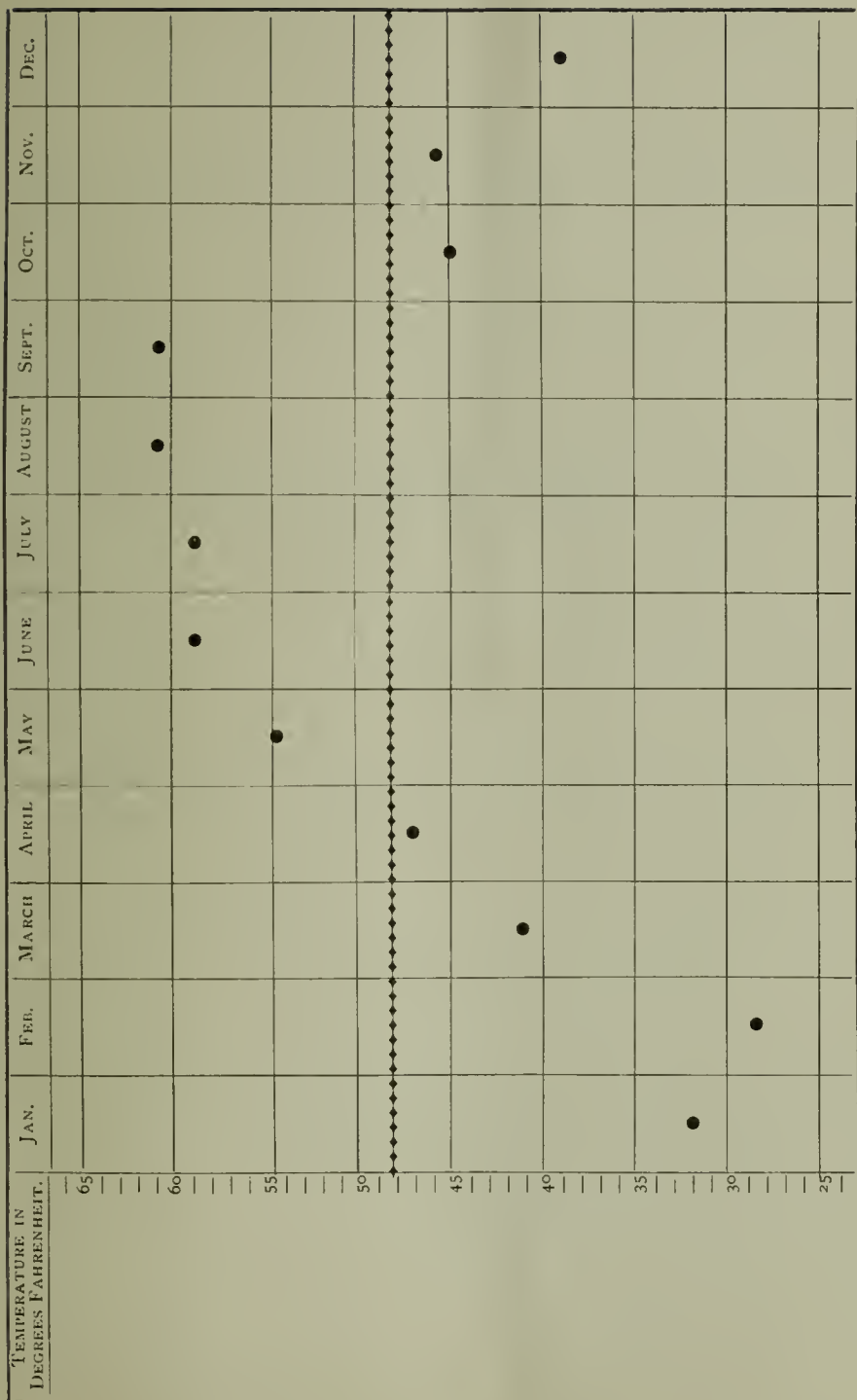
BOROUGH OF STRATFORD-UPON-AVON.

CHART showing number of Deaths from Diseases of Respiratory Organs in each month of the year 1895,
(Phthisis and Whooping Cough excepted, Influenza included).

NUMBER OF DEATHS.	JAN.	FEB.	MARCH	APRIL	MAY	JUNE	JULY	AUGUST	SEPT.	OCT.	NOV.	DEC.
20												
18												
16		●										
14												
12												
10												
8												
6												
4	●		●	●								●
2					●							
0								●		●		

CHART OF MEAN TEMPERATURES IN THE YEAR 1895.

19



The horizontal line drawn at 48° indicates the mean (or average) temperature for the twelve months.



STRATFORD-ON-AVON RURAL DISTRICT.

REPORT

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

FOR THE YEAR

❖ 1895. ❖

STRATFORD-ON-AVON RURAL DISTRICT.

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH.

PARISHES.	POPULATION (CENSUS 1891).			
Alveston (Tiddington)	954
Atherstone-on-Stour	115
Bearley	188
Beaudesert	141
Bickmarsh	130
Billesley	16
Binton	235
Charlecote	212
Combroke	209
Compton Verney	86
Claverdon	550
Eatington	620
Fulbroke	59
Grafton	388
Hampton Lucy	395
Kineton	1021
Langley	142
Loxley	261
Luddington	109
Milcote	50
Moreton Morrell	252
Newbold Pacey and Ashorne	338
Old Stratford and Drayton	165
Preston Bagot	176
Snitterfield	790
Wellesbourne Hastings and Walton	672
Wellesbourne Mountford	673
Whitchurch	194
Wolverton	151
Wootton Wawen	2215
Total Population in 1891				11507

ESTIMATED POPULATION. The population of the district in 1891 (the census year) was 11507, which is about five per cent. less than the census figures for 1881.

If it is assumed that a proportionate decrease has occurred since 1891, the population for the middle of the year 1895 is 11,259.

VITAL STATISTICS.

BIRTH-RATE. The birth-rate for the year is 23·6—the number of births being 272 (male 137, female 135).

DEATH-RATE. The number of deaths in the year has been 171, and to this figure it is necessary to add 14 deaths of persons removed to the Union Workhouse or to the Hospitals in the Borough of Stratford-on-Avon. The corrected death-rate is 16·4 per 1,000. How this compares with preceding years is shown in the following :—

Year	...	1886	1887	1888	1889	1890	1891	1892	1893	1894	1895
Death-Rate		15·9	12·7	14·5	15·5	14·2	15·5	15·5	15·3	15·2	16·4

The average of these ten years is 15 per 1,000, consequently the rate for 1895 is higher than usual.

INFANTILE MORTALITY. The number of deaths under one year of age is 34, and the infantile death-rate 121·3 per 1,000 births registered.

ZYMOTIC DEATH-RATE. The zymotic death-rate, *i.e.*, the death-rate from the seven principal infectious or zymotic diseases is ·7, which is satisfactory.

(A) TABLE OF DEATHS during the Year 1895, in the STRATFORD-ON-AVON RURAL DISTRICT, classified according to DISEASES, AGES, and LOCALITIES.

NAMES OF LOCALITIES adopted for the purpose of these Statistics ; Public Institutions being shown as separate localities.	MORTALITY FROM ALL CAUSES AT SUBJOINED AGES.							MORTALITY FROM SUBJOINED CAUSES, DISTINGUISHING DEATHS OF CHILDREN UNDER FIVE YEARS OF AGE.																	Total						
	At all ages	Under 1 year.	1 and under 5.	5 and under 15.	15 and under 25.	25 and under 65.	65 and upwards.	FEVERS.																							
								Smallpox	Scarlatina	Diphtheria	Membranous Croup	Typhus	Enteric or Typhoid	Continued	Relapsing	Puerperal	Cholera	Erysipelas	Measles	Whooping Cough	Diarrhoea and Dysentery	Rheumatic Fever	Phthisis	Bronchitis, Pneu- monia, & Pleurisy		Heart Disease	Influenza	Injuries	All other Diseases		
Part of Stratford-on-Avon Registration Sub-District.	30	4 3 4	2 5 12	5 upwds	Under 5	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	7
Wellesbourne Registration Sub-District.	77	18 4 3	3 22 27	5 upwds	Under 5	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	23
Wootton Waven Registration Sub-District.	64	11 5 1	4 17 26	5 upwds	Under 5	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	16
Totals	171	33 12 8	9 44 65	5 upwds	Under 5	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	45
Deaths outside the District among persons belonging thereto ...	14	1	2 5 6	5 upwds	Under 5	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
																															13

(B) TABLE OF POPULATION, BIRTHS, and of NEW CASES OF INFECTIOUS SICKNESS, coming to the knowledge of the Medical Officer of Health during the year 1895, in the STRATFORD-ON-AVON RURAL DISTRICT; classified according to DISEASES, AGES, and LOCALITIES.

NAMES OF LOCALITIES adopted for the purpose of these statistics.	POPULATION AT ALL AGES.		Regis- tered Births.	Aged under 5 or over 5	NEW CASES OF SICKNESS IN EACH LOCALITY, COMING TO THE KNOW- LEDGE OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH.										NUMBER OF SUCH CASES REMOVED FROM THEIR HOMES IN THE SEVERAL LOCALITIES FOR TREAT- MENT IN ISOLATION HOSPITAL.																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																														
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TABLES A AND B.

SMALLPOX. No smallpox occurred in the district in the year.

SCARLET FEVER. In January and February scarlet fever was prevalent in the Wootton Wawen district, there being 26 cases notified in these two months. I had the schools closed at Henley and Wootton, and all reported cases, with two exceptions, were removed to hospital without delay. The two exceptions made were in the case of a child fairly isolated at home, and in a malignant case where the disease proved fatal within 12 hours of its being notified.

In the course of my investigations into the cause of the outbreak, I discovered five cases which had not been reported, the parents of the children pleading ignorance as to the nature of the illness. I may here remark that in mild cases of the disease the rash and sore throat may be overlooked, but I doubt much if marked desquamation on the hands of a child is likely to be unknown to its parents.

The schools were disinfected and cleansed before re-opening, and on the day of recommencing school the children attending were individually examined at Wootton, but no suspicious cases discovered. A few cases of the disease have occurred since in the Wootton Wawen district, showing that the disease is not yet thoroughly stamped out there.

In Temple Grafton four cases occurred, one in January, and three in April. These last were all in one house, and of them one terminated fatally, being the only fatal case removed to hospital in the year.

In Wellesbourne and its neighbourhood a few cases have occurred in the year, and doubtless there is infection lingering there since the widespread epidemic in 1894. In October the disease appeared in Ettington; all cases were promptly removed to hospital, and the Day and Sunday Schools closed. I visited the village frequently and inspected all suspicious cases. In spite of all possible precautions, the epidemic made great headway, and 27 cases occurred in October, November, and December. About the middle of December cases ceased to be notified, and the outbreak was at an end by Christmas. The schools were disinfected and cleansed thoroughly, and it is a matter of congratulation that in so large a parish there were not more cases than did occur. At the same time it is disheartening to find that prompt and energetic action cannot limit an outbreak more effectually.

DIPHTHERIA. Thirteen cases of this disease were notified, but no deaths from it occurred. Of these, 9 occurred in Henley-in-Arden and its neighbourhood, the remaining 4 coming from Alveston and Tiddington. Eight were removed to hospital.

With the improved sanitary conditions at Henley it will be reasonable in the future to expect fewer cases of this disease from that part of the district; and it is instructive to note what a large proportion of the cases of enteric fever and diphtheria in the district come from those parishes where sanitary work is most required.

ENTERIC OR TYPHOID FEVER. Two cases of enteric fever were notified in the year. One was at a farm-house near Wootton Wawen village, where the sanitary arrangements were unsatisfactory, and the other was a case in Henley-in-Arden, sent in to the Union Workhouse.

ERYSIPELAS. Three cases of erysipelas were notified in the year, and to these no special importance attaches.

INFLUENZA. Though this disease is not notifiable, and I have no means of ascertaining to what extent it may be prevalent, the fact that five deaths are returned as due to influenza shows that it must have been present in the district to a notable degree.

WATER SUPPLY.

At Henley-in-Arden the main from the Forde Hall springs has been laid into the town, and when the water from this source is in universal use I confidently expect that typhoid fever will be practically unknown in the place; and I would strongly recommend its use even in those cases where the well water has been pronounced to be fit for domestic use, for the reason that well water in Henley, as in other towns, is never secure from the chance of being polluted.

At Moreton Morrell the water supply is insufficient, and in some of the few wells in the village not satisfactory as regards purity. The proposed sinking of several new wells may possibly cope with the difficulty.

In Ullenhall village some other water supply than the present inadequate one is decidedly necessary, and it remains to be seen if the proposed supply from Yew Tree springs will prove satisfactory.

In Tiddington and Alveston a public water supply is required. In the former village, if the subsoil were once infected with the specific germs of typhoid fever, the porous nature of it would very possibly lead to the infection of well water, to a certain extent, throughout the village, and immediate action with respect to the provision of a public water supply would be necessary. At present the well water in Tiddington, though generally impure, does not appear to affect the general health of the village.

SEWERAGE AND DRAINAGE.

During the past summer an unsatisfactory degree of foulness was present in the Kineton brook, and the same thing was evident in the brook at Wellesbourne. In neither case was the condition of affairs such as to call for prompt action, but it is well to note in this report that such conditions did exist.

In Henley-in-Arden the complete sewage system adopted during the year by the laying down of a proper sewer for the town, will be of great benefit to the health of Henley, and together with the introduction of the excellent water supply which the town now possesses, should do much to promote its welfare in time to come.

A system of sewerage for Tiddington and Alveston is still a desideratum for these villages, but as the matter has been amply dealt with in previous Annual Reports it is unnecessary to go into details.

While on the subject of sewage disposal I may repeat as my firm conviction that it is a grave sanitary mistake to permit w.c.'s. to be placed on premises unless flushing cisterns for them are provided. In connection with this subject, an extract from a report on the sanitary condition of one of the urban districts in the Stratford-on-Avon Combined Sanitary District, in 1886, may be of interest :

“ I find that where a w.c. dependent on hand-flushing only is provided for two or more houses, it is generally allowed to become partially blocked before flushing is resorted to ; then flushing is not sufficient, and mops are frequently used to force the accumulation. Leaky joints and cracked basins are the result. This would be obviated if flushing cisterns were insisted upon.”

Although the writer of the above specifies that these conditions obtain where the w.c. is provided "for two or more houses," experience shows that even when the closet belongs to a single house neglect of regular flushing is very common.

SCAVENGING.

In many of the parishes in the district it would be a useful measure if a public "tip" for refuse were established. There is always refuse to be dealt with which, in absence of such accommodation, is left about on premises, or thrown into a brook if available. And a convenience of this sort will be an absolute necessity in some parishes when a code of Bye-laws comes into force, as will probably soon be the case.

BYE-LAWS.

It will be of great service to the district when the Bye-laws, recently enacted by your Council, come into force, inasmuch as a large proportion of the nuisances which your Inspector constantly brings before your notice, are due to faulty construction and position of houses, out-houses, and drains, wilfully or ignorantly constructed or situated without regard to sanitary principles.

It appears to me, however, that if building to any extent should take place in the district, the superintendence of house-construction will require the employment of a surveyor for that purpose; for at the present time the duties of your Sanitary Inspector do not admit of further extension.

DAIRIES, COWSHEDS, AND MILKSHOPS.

In no case in the year has infectious disease been traced as due to the milk supply.

HOUSING OF THE WORKING CLASSES.

Proceedings under the Act have resulted in effecting considerable improvement on several cottages situated in Bridge Street, Kineton. The conditions for which I thought it necessary to institute such proceedings were the dilapidated and damp state of the property.

The Church field cottages at Kineton have been repaired without the extreme measure of a closing order being necessary.

Although there are in the district many dwelling-houses which are not satisfactory from a sanitary point of view, I feel that it would be injudicious to bring the full power of the Act to bear on such as are not aggravated cases. With a decreasing population—as the rural population unfortunately is—the worst class of houses tend to be abandoned, and consequently a certain amount of pressure is brought to bear in this way on the property owner to keep his property in fair condition.

VACCINATION. The district is one in which vaccination is most efficiently carried out.

CANAL BOATS. *Vide* the Inspector of Canal Boats (Mr. Brook's) report.

I am, Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

ARTHUR THOMSON, M.B. D.P.H.,

Fellow of the British Inst. Public Health.

Summary of Sanitary Work done in the Inspector of Nuisance's
Department during the year ending 31st December, 1895.

					Inspections and Observations made.	Formal Notices by Authority.	Nuisances Abated after Notice.
Dwelling Houses and Schools.	{ Foul Conditions ...	...	...	...	58	41	49
	{ Structural Defects ...	...	...	...	90	56	79
	{ Overcrowding ...	...	...	...	2	2	2
	{ Unfit for Habitation ...	...	...	...	—	—	—
	Lodging Houses (only one in District)	...	...	...	Regu larly	—	—
	Dairies and Milkshops ..	...	...	...	17	—	—
	Cow Sheds ..	...	...	...	19	—	—
	Bakehouses ...	...	...	...	—	—	—
	Slaughter-houses ...	...	...	...	Regu larly	—	—
	Canal Boats ..	...	...	...	14	—	—
House Drainage	Ashpits and Privies ...	...	...	...	107	89	83
	Deposits of Refuse and Manure ...	...	...	...	7	12	7
	Water Closets ...	...	...	...	8	8	6
	{ Defective Traps ...	...	...	...	49	49	45
	{ No Disconnection ...	...	...	...	42	36	41
	{ Other Faults ...	...	...	...	41	41	40
	Water Supply ...	...	...	...	49	37	37
	Pigsties... ..	...	...	...	—	—	—
	Animals improperly kept ...	...	...	...	—	—	—
	Offensive Trades... ..	...	...	...	—	—	—
	Smoke Nuisances ...	...	...	...	—	—	—
	Other Nuisances... ..	...	...	...	26	26	20
TOTALS ...					529	397	409
Samples of Water taken for Analysis ...					38		
,, ,, condemned as unfit for use...					27		
NOTE.—Where an inspection or notice embraces more than one defect, it may be enumerated separately as regards each such defect.							
PRECAUTIONS AGAINST INFECTIOUS DISEASE.							
Lots of Infected Bedding Stoved or Destroyed					119		
Houses Disinfected after Infectious Disease ...					126		
Schools ,, ,, ,, ...					2		

VACCINATION.

At the special request of the Medical Officer of Health I have appended hereto a table showing the working of the Vaccination Act in the district, and considering that no prosecutions have been ordered during the past six years, the report is fairly satisfactory.

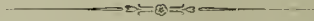
STRATFORD-UPON-AVON UNION.

RETURN, shewing the number of Births Registered, together with the number of such cases successfully Vaccinated, or otherwise disposed of, during the year ending 30th June, 1895, in that portion of the Union comprising the district of the Rural District Council of Stratford-upon-Avon.

No. of Births Registered during the year ending 31st December, 1895.	Number of these cases successfully Vaccinated	Insusceptible of Vaccination.	Died before Vaccination.	Cases under Postponement.	Removals to other Districts out of the Union.	No. of cases not to be found.	Number of cases remaining Unvaccinated at date of this return.
304	233	—	22	5	2	—	42

JOHN BROOK, Vaccination Officer.

MARSTON SICCA
RURAL DISTRICT.



REPORT
OF THE
MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH
FOR THE
YEAR 1895.

MARSTON SICCA RURAL DISTRICT.

Area (approximate), in statute acres, 8833.

Rateable value, £9,836.

Population, census 1881, 1808.

Population, census 1891, 1635.

Population, estimated for middle of 1895, 1566.

PARISHES.	POPULATION IN 1891.		DEATHS IN 1895.	
Clifford Chambers	...	348	...	5
Dorsington	...	114	...	0
Marston Sicca	...	346	...	6
Preston-on-Stour	...	276	...	6
Welford-on-Avon	...	461	...	17
Weston-on-Avon	...	90	...	0

BIRTH-RATE. Twenty-nine births (male 10, female 19) were registered during the year, yielding a birth-rate of 18 per 1,000.

DEATH-RATE. The corrected death-rate is 24·2, which is unusually high. As will be seen above, the Parish of Welford contributed one-half of the total deaths.

INFANTILE MORTALITY. As only one death has occurred in a child under one year of age, the infantile mortality is very low, 34·4 per 1,000 registered births

ZYMOTIC DEATH-RATE. One death occurred from enteric fever in the year. The zymotic death-rate is therefore ·6.

(A) TABLE OF DEATHS during the Year 1895, in the MARSTON SICCA RURAL DISTRICT, classified according to DISEASES, AGES, and LOCALITIES.

NAMES OF LOCALITIES adopted for the purpose of these Statistics ; Public Institutions being shown as separate localities.	MORTALITY FROM ALL CAUSES AT SUBJOINED AGES.						MORTALITY FROM SUBJOINED CAUSES, DISTINGUISHING DEATHS OF CHILDREN UNDER FIVE YEARS OF AGE.																								
	At all ages	Under 1 year.	1 and under 5.	5 and under 15.	15 and under 25.	25 and under 65.	65 and upwards.	Smallpox	Scarlatina	Diphtheria	Membranous Croup	Typhus	Enteric or Typhoid	Continued	Relapsing	Puerperal	Cholera	Erysipelas	Measles	Whooping Cough	Diarrhoea and Dysentery	Rheumatic Fever	Phthisis	Bronchitis, Pneu- monia, & Pleurisy	Heart Disease	Influenza	Injuries	All other Diseases	TOTAL		
Rural District of Marston Sicca.	34	1	1	2	9	21	Under 5 5 upwds	.....	.....	1	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	1	.....	6	5	1	2	17	1	33	
Totals	34	1	1	2	9	21	Under 5 5 upwds	.....	.....	1	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	1	.....	6	5	1	2	17	1	33
Deaths occurring outside the District among persons belonging thereto.	5	1	1	1	3	.....	Under 5 5 upwds	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	1	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	1	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	3	.....	5
Deaths occurring within the District among persons not belonging thereto.	1	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	Under 5 5 upwds	.....	.....	1	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	1

(B) TABLE OF POPULATION, BIRTHS, and of NEW CASES OF INFECTIOUS SICKNESS, coming to the knowledge of the Medical Officer of Health during the year 1895, in the MARSTON SICCA RURAL DISTRICT; classified according to DISEASES, AGES, and LOCALITIES.

NAMES OF LOCALITIES adopted for the purpose of these statistics.	POPULATION AT ALL AGES.		Regis- tered Births.	Aged under 5 or over 5	NEW CASES OF SICKNESS IN EACH LOCALITY, COMING TO THE KNOW- LEDGE OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH.										NUMBER OF SUCH CASES REMOVED FROM THEIR HOMES IN THE SEVERAL LOCALITIES FOR TREAT- MENT IN ISOLATION HOSPITAL.															
	Census 1891	Esti- mated to middle of 1895			FEVERS.										FEVERS.															
					(a)	(b)	(c)	(d)	(e)	Smallpox.	Scarlatina.	Diphtheria.	Membranous Group.	Typhus.	Enteric or Typhoid.	Continued.	Relapsing.	Puerperal.	Cholera.	Erysipelas.	Smallpox.	Scarlatina.	Diphtheria.	Membranous Group.	Typhus.	Enteric or Typhoid.	Continued.	Relapsing.	Puerperal.	Cholera.	Erysipelas.
Marston Sicca	1635	1566	29	Under 5 5 upwds	Under 5 5 upwds	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
				Under 5 5 upwds	Under 5 5 upwds	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
TOTALS... ..	1635	1566	29	Under 5 5 upwds	Under 5 5 upwds	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....

INFECTIOUS DISEASE NOTIFIED IN THE YEAR.

The district is to be congratulated on its freedom from infectious disease during 1895. Only one case was notified to me, being a case of enteric (or typhoid) fever in a young girl. She was removed forthwith to the Joint Hospital, where the case unfortunately terminated fatally. The infection was evidently contracted away from her home.

A case of infectious disease which was not notified, but which occurred in the district, was that of a child who came on a visit to Welford from Birmingham, and died, shortly after his arrival, from diphtheria. On enquiry I found he had been suffering from throat symptoms before leaving Birmingham, and had been seen by a medical man there for that reason.

BYE-LAWS.

As I have pointed out previously, a favourable opportunity is now afforded for the adoption of a code of Bye-laws, since the District of Stratford-on-Avon, which adjoins the Marston Sicca District, are about to do so. And it is reasonable to expect that the formulating of Bye-laws for the district will be of great benefit ultimately to property owners. For at present it is possible for middens to be constructed on faulty principles and in improper positions, and for drains to be laid and connected with sinks, &c., on principles likely to give rise to nuisance and sickness. The result of work being done in this manner is that when any illness arises as a result, the property owner is obliged to have the faulty midden or drain re-constructed or re-laid.

WATER SUPPLY.

The water supply of Long Marston has been commented on annually for a long term of years in the reports of my predecessors and in mine. It is still bad and insufficient, and although, so far, no epidemic sickness has occurred from its use, it is impossible that water from stagnant, polluted, open pond-holes can be wholesome for public use.

And I would strongly advise that expert's opinion be obtained as to the capabilities of the excellent water at Rumer Hill as a public water supply.

I am, Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

ARTHUR THOMSON.

MARSTON SICCA.

 SANITARY INSPECTOR'S REPORT

FOR

THE YEAR ENDING 31st DECEMBER, 1895.

 TO THE CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS OF THE RURAL
DISTRICT COUNCIL OF MARSTON SICCA.

GENTLEMEN,

I beg to report that during the past year I have received 5 complaints, and have served 35 notices for the abatement of nuisances, particulars of which follow: One case of overcrowding, 13 houses required repairing, 17 required whitewashing, 12 midden or vault privies required repairing or re-constructing on the dry-midden principle, 6 new drains have been laid, 10 drains opened, cleansed and repaired, 14 drains efficiently trapped, 9 wells cleaned out and repaired, or new lids provided, 2 ditches cleaned out, 1 yard paved, and 2 samples of water analysed.

No houses or premises have required disinfecting.

At Long Marston a serious nuisance has been removed. The drainage of a number of houses has for years drained into a pool, and in warm weather gave off very unpleasant odours. In compliance with your instructions I diverted the course of the sewer, and re-laid a length with good sanitary pipes. By the kindness of Mr. Izod and others part of the pool was filled up, and I hope that before long the owner will see his way to complete the work.

I am, Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

JOHN BROOK, ASSOC. SAN. INST.,

Certificated Sanitary Inspector.

Joint Infectious Hospitals

OF THE

BOROUGH OF STRATFORD-UPON-AVON,

AND THE

RURAL DISTRICTS OF STRATFORD-UPON-AVON

AND

MARSTON SICCA.

Matron :

Medical Superintendent :

MISS ALDIS.

ARTHUR THOMSON, M.B.

REPORT

OF THE

MEDICAL SUPERINTENDENT.

*TO THE CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS OF THE
JOINT HOSPITALS COMMITTEE.*

GENTLEMEN,

The following tabulated statement gives particulars as to cases of infectious disease isolated at the Joint Infectious Hospital, and at Bellevue (smallpox) Hospital during the year 1895.

	THE BOROUGH.	RURAL DISTRICT STRATFORD-ON-AVON	RURAL DISTRICT MARSTON SICCA.	OUTSIDE DISTRICTS.	TOTAL.
No. of cases of Smallpox	1				1
„ „ Scarlet Fever	6	83			89
„ „ Diphtheria	8	8		1	17
„ „ Enteric Fever	1		1		2
No. of Deaths from Smallpox					
„ „ Scarlet Fever		1			1
„ „ Diphtheria	3				3
„ „ Enteric Fever			1		1
No. of Patients in Hospital on January 1st, 1895	15	1			16
No. of Patients in Hospital on December 31st, 1895	3	10			13

As shown above, there have been 109 patients admitted during the year, of which 104 were discharged convalescent, and five died.

The vast majority of cases under treatment have been children with scarlet fever of a mild type.

The permanent nursing staff, consisting of the matron and an under nurse have, during the year, been quite competent to carry out the hard work in the Scarlet Fever block, as this gives one nurse for day duty and the other for night duty. Continuous duty of this character, however, necessitates such an amount of nursing, pure and simple, upon the matron, as to prevent her from effectually superintending the general domestic work of the hospital. Since it is not permissible to allow a nurse in charge of scarlet fever to come in contact with patients suffering from diphtheria or typhoid fever, it has been necessary to procure the services of extra nurses to attend to any cases of these last-mentioned diseases. And, as no less than 20 cases of diseases other than scarlet fever have had to be nursed in the year, there were only three months out of twelve in which extra assistance was not needed.

It is, in fact, the nursing of different classes of infectious disease which is the great difficulty in small hospitals, since it takes at least a staff of three nurses to attend to cases of two separate diseases.

The arrangement entered upon at the beginning of 1896, by which the services of an assistant matron have been engaged, will, I am confident give more satisfaction than, and be at least quite as economical as the plan of constantly engaging outside help.

Now that the Joint Hospital has been in use for more than a year, I am in a position to speak as to its merits from a structural point of view.

The ventilation is excellent, as some tests I made of the purity of the air in the wards when occupied clearly demonstrated. And I think it is indisputable that children when convalescing, regain flesh and colour to an extent which was not evident in the temporary hospitals which have been in use in the district in the past few years.

The heating apparatus of the wards (Shorland's Manchester warm air grates) is insufficient to maintain a temperature above 55° Farh. in cold weather, unless an extravagant amount of fuel is used. Since, however, these grates assist so materially in the ventilation of the wards, it is perhaps ungrateful to speak otherwise than well of them.

Accommodation is urgently needed for the storage of surplus bedding, etc., and for the housing of the "clothes van," but this I understand will soon be arranged for.

During the year the use of antitoxine injections has been carried out in the treatment of diphtheria, when thought advisable by the medical attendant, and with satisfactory results.

And I think it is pretty generally agreed now that the great danger lies in delaying the use of this treatment, on the supposition that the mildness of a case precludes its use.

Bellevue (Smallpox) Hospital was only in use for three weeks in the year. It is a great satisfaction to be able to have such a place as this for the isolation of smallpox, as it can be got ready in a few hours at any time. Being raised on brick piers keeps the wards very dry, and for occasional use I cannot imagine anything better than a corrugated iron building of this sort, as it is so quickly warmed and ready for occupation. A brick building, if left vacant for six months, would be too damp to put a patient in until there had been fires burning for about a day.

I am, Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

ARTHUR THOMSON.



